

**Pending Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (canceled)
2. (currently amended) A An isolated and purified recombinant V antigen protein free of other proteins encoded by a the plasmid having the construct of pPAV13 as shown in Figure 1 with a fusion protein replacing 67 N terminal amino acids.
3. (currently amended) A An isolated and purified recombinant truncated V antigen protein lacking the first free of other proteins produced by recombinant techniques with a fusion protein replacing 67 N-terminal amino acids of native V antigen and which is for inducing a protective anti V antigen antibody.
4. (canceled)
5. (canceled)
6. (canceled)
7. (canceled)
8. (currently amended) A The isolated and purified recombinant V antigen protein free of other proteins of claim 2, wherein the encoded by a plasmid prepared by recombinant techniques encoding proteins controlling the effects of *Y. pestis* and inducing protective immunity, the plasmid comprising comprises low calcium response regions V and H and the structural gene for staphylococcal protein A.
9. (canceled)
- Claims 10. -38. (canceled)